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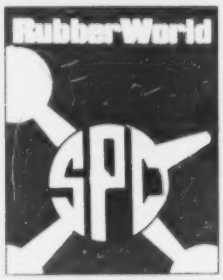

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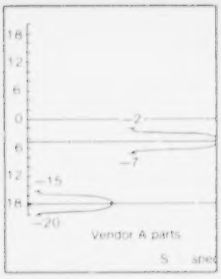

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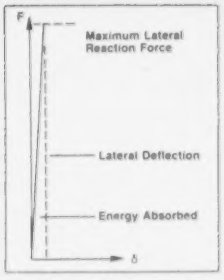

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15 Urethane Forum: New castable systems focus of spring meeting

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17 Strategies for process improvement

by Alonzo Church, Jr., GenCorp. The author looks at methods for achieving process improvement, which is defined as any action or change which produces a better product and perhaps, in addition, a manufacturing cost benefit.

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by Robert Fabian, Acushnet Co., Rubber Division. The statistical process control-guided purchasing system, which can be used to efficiently attain better quality and reduced costs when used cooperatively by suppliers, is discussed in this article.

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by Scott Montgomery, Technicomp, Inc. This case study describes how one company, a manufacturer of a wide variety of extruded and injection molded rubber parts, went about implementing a statistical process control program.

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by D.E. Miller, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. This article illustrates how, for an effective SPC program, commitment must begin with top management and spread throughout the manufacturing operations, and discusses how process capabilities are being assessed and how SPC techniques are being employed to improve them at Goodyear.

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Business Briefs

Acquisitions, expansions

Armtek Corp.(formerly Armstrong Rubber) sold its Natchez, MS tire manufacturing plant and its S&A Truck Tire Sales and Service Corp. to **Condere Corp.**, New Haven, CT. The Natchez facility will continue to supply truck tires to Armstrong Tire and a certain percentage of the Sears Truck Tire Centers product line. S&A, through a license agreement with Sears, operates 51 retail outlets under the STTC name. Armtek also sold its Industrial Tire and Assembly division, including a production facility in Clinton, TN to **Dyneer Corp.**, Scotsdale, AZ.

Cooper Tire is undergoing a multimillion dollar expansion which will boost radial and light truck tire production at its Texarkana, AR plant by 25%; add equipment to its Tupelo, MS that will increase production by 30% and a 10% production increase at its Findlay plant.

VMI Americas, Inc. is constructing offices and manufacturing facilities near Akron, OH for its automated systems and machinery to assemble tires, produce tire components or to process rubber.

Helvoet Pharma, Pennsauken, NJ purchased certain assets relating to the manufacture and distribution of pharmaceutical grade compression molded parts and infant feeding nipples from **J.P. Stevens & Co.**

Wacker Chemical Co., Louisville, KY is purchasing **Stauffer Chemical's** interest in Stauffer-Wacker Silicones Corp., Adrian MI.

Mohawk Rubber added a 160,000 ton Banbury to its Tread Rubber Division in Guntersville, AL.

American Feed Screws has been established in Akron and will provide screw design programs for extruder and injection molding machines and feed screw and barrel manufacture and repair.

Thunderline Corp. is adding 22,000 sq. ft. to its Bellville, IL silicone molding facility.

Ashland Chemical is increasing maleic anhydride production capacity at its Neal, WV plant by 40%.

Carlisle SynTec Systems acquired **Hardcast, Inc.**, Wylie, TX a manufacturer and marketer of adhesives, sealants and tapes.

Goodyear will market aviation tires worldwide through a department based in Akron. Establishment of the Aviation Products Dept. follows the sale of Goodyear Aerospace which didn't include Goodyear's aircraft tire operations or the Air Treads retreading and wheel and brake overhaul unit based in Atlanta, GA.

Contracts, licenses

Du Pont named **R.T. Vanderbilt Inc.**, Norwalk, CT a full stocking distributor of its neoprene and Nordel elastomers and Hypalon chlorosulfonated polyethylene.

Teijin Ltd. and **Ethyl Corp.** have begun an exclusive cooperative development program to explore the potential of polyphosphazene polymers in fiber applications. Ethyl will utilize its proprietary synthesis technology, and Teijin will contribute expertise in fiber production and marketing.

Rubber Research Elastomerics entered into a license agreement with **Rubbertech, Inc.**, a Minnesota corporation for the use of technology developed by RRE for the manufacture of rubber roofing components out of Tirecycle compounds, a newly developed recyclable rubber product.

Clevite Industries, Glenview, IL and **Bridgestone Corp.**, Tokyo have formed a joint venture to be named Clevite-Bridgestone Co. Headquartered in Milan, OH, the company will manufacture and sell rubber-to-metal products for the automotive industry. Initially the company will manufacture in Clevite's existing Angola, IN plant. If sales justify, production will relocate to a new or purchased plant.

Hysol Aerospace, Pittsburg, CA is licensing its en-